

Message Text

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44

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TAGS: SGEN, IT

SUBJECT: TUSCAN BISHOPS SUPPORT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: ROME 18326

1. THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINTER MEETING OF THE BISHOPS OF TUSCANY GAVE ALL THE BISHOPS PRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THEIR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT TO THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN BISHOPS ON THE SUBJECT OF ABORTION AND THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF PROFESSING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SUPPORTING 'THOSE MOVEMENTS' THAT ARE FOUNDED ON MARXISM. WHILE THE BISHOPS INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH LOCAL CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS (HEAVILY DOMINATED IN TUSCANY BY LEFT WING GIUNTAS), THEY EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY IDEOLOGICAL COMPROMISE.
2. IN ADDITION, THE BISHOPS DEPLORED PRESSURE FOR THE CHURCH TO SUPPORT PROPOSALS TO REORGANIZE SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUKDKION WITHIN THE REGION.
3. IN A DRY COMMENT, COMMUNIST LINE 'PAESE SERA' NOTED THAT ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT THE TUSCAN BISHOPS TO DO ANYTHING ELSE BUT SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND STATED 'THE PRACTICING CATHOLIC IS SUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO DECIDE ON HIS OWN HOW TO CONDUCT HIMSELF IN POLITICS, A FACT HE HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT THE BISHOPS

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HAD BEEN POLEMICAL IN RAISING THE QUESTION OF FREEDOM OF

INSTRUCTION AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND STATED THAT THE REALITY
IS DIFFERENT SINCE THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS CAN CONTINUE TO
COEXIST ALONGSIDE THE PUBLIC ONES AND CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST,
TO RECEIVE PUBLIC FUNDS. GORDON

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